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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for starting to secure the long-term health of our old-growth forests. These forests are important because they provide numerous benefits to their ecosystems, the water cycle, the quality of the air, and to neighboring human communities.

These special forests are few and becoming even fewer. Besides, these forests are suffering increased assaults on their health from the Climate Crisis, industries and people. We need our nation to change direction to guarantee the conservation and health of our remaining old-growth forests.

As the agency refines its old-growth forests proposal, I insist you include:

- Make a formal accounting of all on-the-ground old-growth stands to ensure that the proposed plan is applied to the right places.
- Make clear when proactive management should/must be used to make certain that forests needs are met.
- Make robust engagement of the public and Tribes is a real priority. Develop local and regional Adaptive Strategies for Old-Forest Conservation.
- Provide the resources necessary for the proposals monitoring requirements. That way you can assess the effectiveness of your management approaches. After that assessment interventions can be better adapted to reach the projects' goals.
- Publicize your data for transparency. Provide information compiled through the National Old-Growth Monitoring Network, as well as information on vegetation management projects occurring either in old-growth stands or in priority fire sheds under the agency's Wildfire Crisis Strategy.

Thank you for recognizing the many important values of old-growth forests through the initiation of this process, and for considering my comments.